

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 26, 2013**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:02 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday, Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School District Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant: **\$674,873.83**

6 Yes

Mayor Abstained (Conflict)

Motion Passed

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant: **\$24,864.29**

Motion Passed

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant: **\$5,397.36**

Motion Passed

Minutes

Vice-Chair Sweeney stated that the minutes from the August 19, meeting were not yet available for vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 William Hall Dr.

CONCERN: Thanked the Committee for extending the public comment period. The concerns of his that he would like at the forefront is the High School science program. I would like to see the Superintendent in her entry plan address this issue and continue to scrutinize it in the meeting agenda item Superintendent's Report. The STEM coordinator position was not included in the budget for K-12, I do not know how that made it in. The budget process should begin earlier. How are we going to promote STEM in the schools, and beware of the laws surrounding school councils.

DETAIL UPDATE ON BUILDING PROJECTS:

Steve Bergholm, Director of Facilities & Tony Pruner, OPM Heery, gave an update on the two building projects to the Committee.

Bresnahan Project

Steve Bergholm thanked the superintendent. I will speak on where we are in the project. At the Bresnahan project, the structural steel is completed except for minor details; the framing crew is on site and has been for several weeks now. The vapor barrier is on the exterior and brick work will begin soon. On the inside of the building there are framed interior walls on the second & third floors. The building is taking shape. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing has all begun; contractors are on site. I have handed out a few pictures of the project with on as the view of the parent drop off and another view from Norman St.

We have been meeting with neighbors over the last several months. The project is having an impact on those neighborhoods, Norman and Murphy Ave. We need to keep them in mind moving forward.

Nock/Molin

The photos we have given to you are a look at the office and cafeteria spaces. Things are very hectic there and teachers have been working over the last several days to prepare for the students on August 28. We are nearing the end Phase 1 of this project. It has been a short summer and hectic, but we have moved along well. We will be finishing up on Phase 1 and beginning on Phase 2 soon. Come Wednesday, the building will be safe and functional for the students arrival.

Tony Pruner, OPM, Heery

Both projects began and we drove the schedules, design, and construction. I am showing the total project budget and the savings we have incurred. First column is MSBA PFA budget \$26,997,326. We chose Gilbane and they came in under budget and we currently have a savings of \$988,909.

Change order: replacing of auditorium seats; the building committee looked at and would like to provide the remaining 24 classrooms with air conditioning. There will be no air in the auditorium or gym, but all 50 classrooms, offices and cafeteria will have it.

\$32,000 was approved by building committee to prepare classrooms for the special education program.

Bruce Menin inquired: In bringing up to code in classrooms is that the ADA? The sound needs to be heard in all spaces, including auditorium.

Tony Pruner: Sound enhancement?

Bruce Menin: We need, with the new laws to have the sound enhancement in the common areas. Will it be done? And what is the cost of that?

Tony Pruner: We can find that out for you.

Bruce Menin: It is burdensome but it is a flaw so I am glad to see that it is being addressed. What do we use the money in the contingency fund for?

Tony Pruner: I recommend we keep those right now and see how things shake out. We will be doing the roof next summer and we need to see how things go.

Steve Bergholm: There is a list of possible scope additions, but we are cautious about adding things ye, such as paving parking lots, jazz up the front of the buildings, etc. We leave it in the bank.

Bruce Menin: I have been looking for building committee meeting minutes, where are they?

Tony Pruner: They will be put on the website; I can also add the School Committee to receiving those as well.

Tony Pruner: The Bresnahan site was originally thought to possibly have problems as we were told many things about how it used to be a stump dump or that there was unanticipated ground conditions. We were happy that was not the case. We continue to look at savings. We will be moving forward with terrazzo flooring as it is more durable. There will also be an addition of ceramic wall tile where there was not lockers. It is more protective moving forward. It will provide better durability. Any questions?

Vice Chair Cheryl Sweeney: You did not wind up with anything underground, have you had difficulty with neighbors, water issues, or anything? We brought in a seismograph to measure shaking of the ground. It

was minimal. There has been some settling and cracks. We are working on the street in the next few weeks and we hope to not experience any major problems.

Bruce Menin: Going back to a July meeting, I thought I remember the number of \$615,000 and now it is in the \$300,000 range where did that change? What is terrazzo?

Tony Pruner: The entry, administrative area, cafeteria included the original flooring. The B building which is the main 3 floor section was \$127,000 and alt 2 was for terrazzo base to dress up all around. Alt 1 plus alt 2 came to the larger number. Terrazzo is much more laborious and thus the increase. The ceramic wall will provide a wainscot for students bumping walls etc. bathrooms originally had one ceramic wall on the wet wall.

Mayor Holaday: The discussion on where to allocate the funds for the floors, one member was finishing a project at a college and the terrazzo floor laid in the 1950s was still good, where the 8 year old floors will be ripped out.

Bruce Menin: I have no problem with terrazzo or the amount of money; but fine with upgrade on floors.

Nick deKanter: How is the timing of the projects going?

Tony Pruner: Things are okay, both projects are on time and on schedule.

Bruce Menin: As terrazzo would take longer to install, would this delay the project.

Tony Pruner: No, we do not think so.

Thank you Steve & Tony

Superintendent's Report

I have given you all a listing of all the new hires. I met with each of the new hires regardless of their role. It allows me to discuss my expectations and goals for the district. I am excited to have the students return this week and look forward to visiting classrooms and observing teaching. I have not met all members, as some were hired prior to my arrival. Reasons for all of the new hires are varied, new, replacements, retirements, non-renewals, etc. This is an extraordinary year; hopefully we will not have as large a change moving forward. We had a new teacher orientation day and I think that Angela did a great job having the mentors and mentees together and it was a warm and welcoming day for all.

I am going to add to our hiring process. I will request that the administrators have the professional staff show a lesson, and with support staff, we would like to have them do a task. Questions?

Bruce Menin: Can you speak to a conversation in the summer about the assistant principal and tech integrator position, this is not happening, what is the thought on the assistant principal position?

Supt. Viccaro: We needed to stay with the \$50,000 mark for new hires, however, we had to go higher with some. I think we were creative in how we have hired. Cannot speak to decisions made prior to my arrival. We will not fill the assistant principal position.

Bruce Menin: Can you speak to the STEM coordinator position and how you feel that these changes will help us moving forward?

Supt. Viccaro: I met with all of the science candidates and we spoke about their experience and how they interact with students. I need to consult with Principal Parent and to observe the classrooms. I was happy with the folks we have hired. I am going to defer to Angela on the job descriptions which we included in the packet.

Asst. Supt. Bik: We had ELA & Math coaches over the past several years. We reduced to one ELA person. The person who was to be the math coordinator, left for another district. When the resignation occurred we looked at the STEM focus and we proceeded in that direction. We have hired Elizabeth Kinzly from Lynnfield, and she is working on her doctorate with a focus on STEM. She has extensive experience. We are excited and once she is settled she will be happy to come to the committee and speak.

Vice-Chair Cheryl Sweeney: Can I ask you why a K-8 and not a K12 on STEM?

Asst. Supt. Bik: Dept. chairs are curriculum leaders at the High School and so we went with a K-8, for focus at this time. That is not to say we cannot go there in the future as we develop.

Supt. Viccaro: The other position included in your packet is the Coordinator of Health/Nursing/Safety. I will be bringing a safety committee together and we will be reviewing our crisis management manual, etc.

I want to address the Nock/Molin building. We have some concerns about Wednesday's opening and we will do a walk through tomorrow and I assure you that things will be safe for students.

Vice-Chair Cheryl Sweeney: The Nurse Coordinator position, will this include wellness committee? Will it include mental health?

Supt. Viccaro: I need to become more familiar with mental health, and how that will connect with this person remains to be seen. We will bring both counselors and nurses together.

Vice-Chair Cheryl Sweeney: I see that there is still a SPED position open. Will this impact anything with the programs?

Supt. Viccaro: This person may be the person who has a 60 day clause, and they will begin mid-Sept.

Mayor Holaday: NHS has been accepted to work with Jeannie Geiger center, we have a grant. Training people to take action and respond. It begins at the HS after the accreditation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To adjourn 8:00 PM.

Motion Passed.